Richard “Dick” Eggert, MMR #64

Dick had a lifelong interest in railroads. Growing up near the C&NW yard in Appleton, Wisconsin, Dick claimed the engineer on the switch engine taught him how to operate the class-M 0-6-0 at the age of 12. During his high school years, Dick had a 4x8 HO layout. After his military service in the Air Force, Dick’s interest in model railroading returned and he began building an HO layout in 1967. The Palisades Mining Company Railroad (original layout) was based on a free-lanced ore carrier in a mountainous western region in the early 1900s era. The layout featured code 70 hand laid track, hard shell scenery, many scratch built structures and dozens of scratch built wooden ore cars. An article on the PMCRR appeared in the July 1980 issue of Model Railroader Magazine.

Dick was employed as an industrial lift truck service technician, was a master of all things mechanical and electrical and his layout ran extremely well. Dick was very active with the NMRA and had a lifetime membership. Dick served the Winnebagoland division as a director, as the Winnebagoland Division Whistle newsletter Circulation Manger, was the Winnebagoland Division Achievement Chairman, judged many NMRA contests and presented several table-top clinics on track laying and scenery. Dick received Achevement awards for Master Builder Cars, Model Railroad Engineer - Civil, Association Volunteer, Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical, Master Builder – structures, Master Builder – Scenery and Chief Dispatcher and he suceeded in achieving his goal to become one of the first 100 Master Model Railroaders in 1976. Dick was involved with local hobby groups and was a leader with a group of youngsters building an HO layout at the Boy’s Brigade.

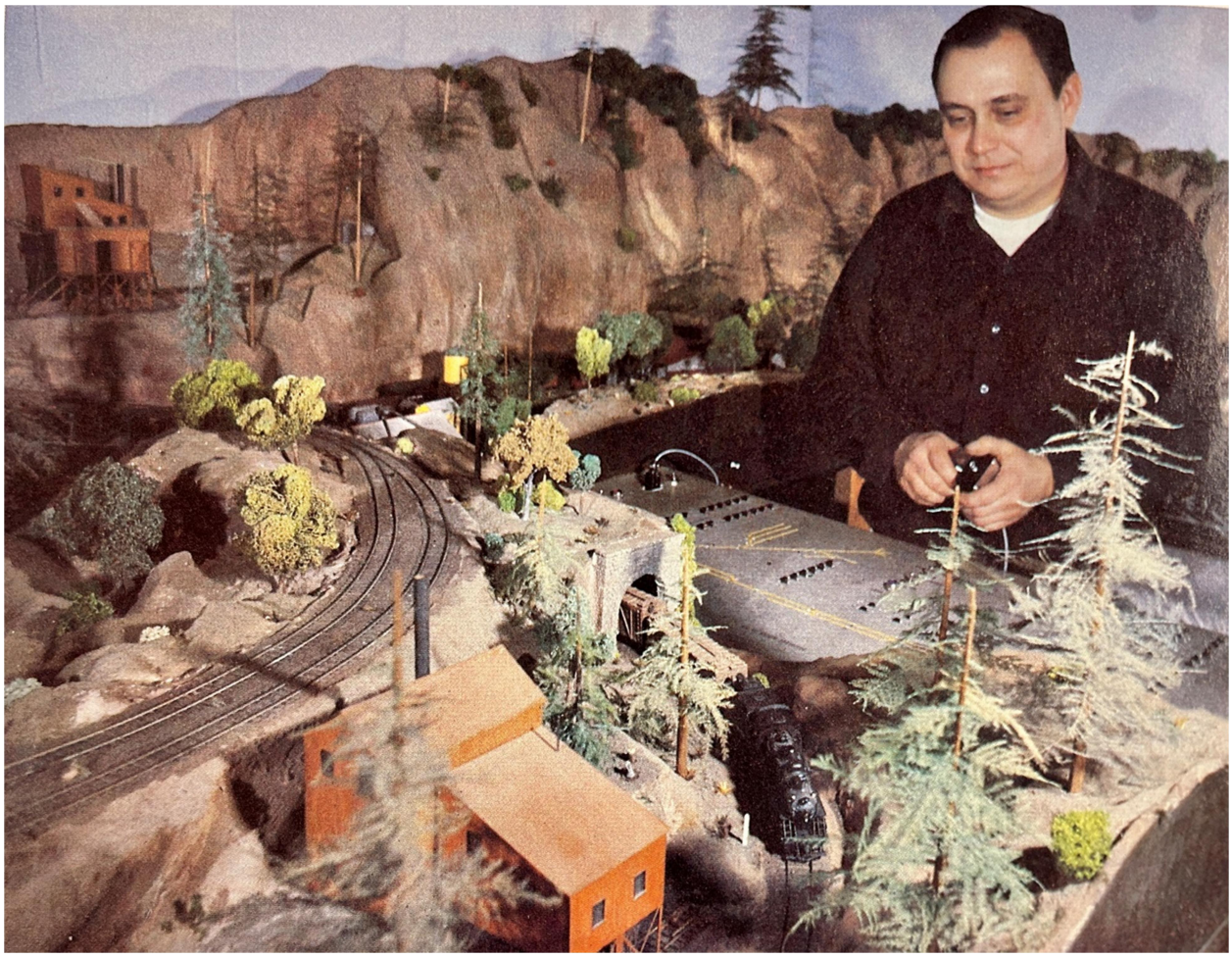
The last operating session on the original Palisades Mining Company Railroad occurred in June of 1982 and shortly after Dick began dismantling the layout and built a revised version of the PMCRR in an

expanded room with double the space. The new layout featured smooth operating hand laid track, and two decks with continuous running with two helixes. The same freelance ore carrier theme was continued but with a 1950s era with steam and early diesels. Unfortunately due to Dick's health issues, the revised layout never reached the point of having scenery. After a five year battle with cancer, Dick passed away in 1990.

Dick's legacy lives on with the Richard Eggert Best of Show Award which is awarded to the Best of Show contest model at the Spring and Fall Winnebagoland Division meets.

Using several construction fixtures, Dick scratch built dozens of these wooden ore cars. The design is based on an early 1900s era C&NW prototype.

This Atlas S2 and several other locomotives, were custom painted by Dick for his Palisades Mining Co. RR. Dick had custom decals made for all of the PMCRR rolling stock.



This shows Dick at the controls of a Palisades Mining Co. road freight on the original layout. This is the original version of the layout which was featured in the July 1980 issue of Model Railroader Magazine. Model Railroader Magazine photo.